AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in relation to the present patent application.

Listing of the Claims

1.   (original)   A locking mechanism for coupling and uncoupling a removable component coupleable to and from a computer device, comprising:

a first member selectively positionable between secured and unsecured configurations of the removable component with respect to the computer device; and

a second member positionable between first and second configurations, wherein the first configuration extends the second member through the first member in the secured configuration to secure the first member.

2.   (original)   The locking mechanism as recited in claim 1, comprising a pivotable member configured to actuate the second member selectively between the first and second configurations.

3.   (original)   The locking mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein the removable component is a hot-pluggable device.

4.   (original)   The locking mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein the first member comprises a lever pivotably coupled to the removable component.

5.   (previously presented) The locking mechanism as recited in claim 2, wherein the pivotable member is a knob coupled to the removable component.

6.   (previously presented) The locking mechanism as recited in claim 2, wherein the pivotable member is configured to transition the removable component selectively between an operational configuration and a dormant configuration.

7.   (cancelled)

8.   (original)   The locking mechanism as recited in claim 6, wherein the dormant configuration is an unpowered configuration and the operational configuration is a powered configuration.

9.   (previously presented)A locking mechanism for coupling and uncoupling a removable component coupleable to and from a computer device, comprising:

a leveraging member configured to at least partially disengage a removable component with respect to a computer device;

an engaging member selectively positionable in first and second positions such that the engaging member at least partially engages with the leveraging member in the first position; and

a pivotable member coupled to the engaging member such that pivotal movement of the pivotable member actuates the engaging member along a longitudinal axis of the engaging member.

10.   (original)   The locking mechanism as recited in claim 9, wherein the pivotable member is configured to transition at least one of the removable component and computer device between an operational configuration and a dormant configuration.

11.   (original)   The locking mechanism as recited in claim 10, wherein the pivotable member is electrically coupled to an indicator configured to indicate visually the status of at least one of the computer device and removable component between the operational and dormant configurations.

12.   (original)   The locking mechanism as recited in claim 9, wherein the pivotable member and the leveraging member are coupled to the removable component.

13.   (previously presented)The locking mechanism as recited in claim 9, wherein the engaging member in the first position extends through the leveraging member.

14.   (original)   A system, comprising:

a computer device;

a removable component engageable and disengageable with the computer device; and

a locking assembly, comprising:

a first member for at least partially disengaging the removable component with respect to the computer device; and

an engaging member positionable between first and second configurations, wherein the engaging member in the first configuration extends through the first member to secure the first member with respect to the computing component.

15.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, comprising a pivotable member configured to actuate the engaging member between first and second configurations, wherein the pivotal movement of the pivotable member actuates the engaging member along a longitudinal axis of the engaging member.

16.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer device comprises a server.

17.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer device comprises a personal computer.

18.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the removable component comprises a memory component.

19.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the removable component comprises a disk-drive.

20.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the removable component comprises a cooling device.

21.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein at least one of the first member and the engaging member is coupled to the removable component.

22.   (original)   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the removable component is hot-pluggable.

23.   (currently amended)   A method of selectively securing a removable component to a computer device, comprising:

actuating a locking mechanism such that the locking mechanism actuates a an engaging member to extend through a pivotable member configured to selectively position the removable component between secured or unsecured configurations with respect to the computer device.

24.   (original)   The method as recited in claim 23, wherein actuation comprises pivoting a pivotable member coupled to the engaging member.

25.   (original)   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein actuation comprises translating the pivotal movement of the pivotal member into lateral movement of the engaging member along a longitudinal axis of the engaging member.

26.   (new)   A locking mechanism for coupling and uncoupling a removable component with respect to and from a computer device, comprising:

a first member positionable to transition the removable component between inserted and released positions with respect to the computer device; and

a second member positionable to transition the removable component between dormant and operational states, wherein placement of the second member in a position such that the removable component is in the operational state blocks the first member from transitioning the removable component between the inserted and released positions.